



IS LASIK AN EXPENSIVE PROCEDURE?

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More and more people are dealing with vision impairments today than ever before! Along with the increase in vision problem, the treatment options have also increased. The ways to improve vision have come from none to eye glasses and monocles, to contact lenses and coloured lenses and now to corrective surgery with the promise of **lifetime vision correction!**

Imagine of not wearing glasses or contact lenses and still see clearly ! LASIK surgery is the latest technology in vision correction. With all the improvements in eye surgery, from cutting the eyes with a scalpel, to the use of a fine tuned laser, today there is no reason a person should have a need for lenses for vision. LASIK surgery may not be for everybody, but almost everyone will benefit from it! For people who are actively involved in sports, swimming, flying, front desk officer, other jobs, and activities that require great vision, it may seem like that their prayers have been answered. LASIK surgery is also a great invention for people who just want to improve their appearance and at the same time do not want to get into the time consuming procedure of contact lens. After living with glasses for most of their lives, finally there is an option for freedom!

People who talk about the cost of LASIK surgery compared to the cost of other mode of vision correction should know that LASIK surgery is far outweighed by the savings of money spent on contact lenses and their cleaning solutions and other necessary supplies or lifetime of replacement glasses. The cost involvement may prevent many of us from referring our patients for LASIK. They should know that LASIK cost have gone down significantly since it was introduced in the early 1990's. The price probably have reached their lowest point. Today the average cost of LASIK surgery for both eyes is around Rs. 25000/- to Rs. 30000/- in India, which is far less than the overall expenditure over the other modes of vision correction over a period of time. Many patients often ask whether these prices are realistic or not. For them let us consider the cost involvement in the procedure—

Cost of LASIK Equipments

LASIK equipments are not only expensive but it must also be maintained to the standards required for consistently good results. Besides , periodic up gradation is also an essential part of good results by a LASIK Centre. Some LASIK Centre do not upgrade them often or fail to perform regular maintenance. Other might purchase cheaper equipment that might not be as accurate. The good and updated equipment are extremely important to the success of the surgery. So saving money to receive an inferior surgery is never a good idea. Make sure that the LASIK Centre uses the most advanced equipments. Familiarise yourself with the names of the lasers and other LASIK equipments. Do not allow a doctor to offer you a lower price by offering you inferior LASIK equipments.

Cost of Personnel's

LASIK Centres depend on more than just the skills of the LASIK surgeons. Many of the measurements are performed by the supporting staff or the optometrists. A highly trained and effective staff can be expensive as well. If you feel the staff is under trained, perhaps you should consider finding a new center. Errors can occur if the staff and the LASIK surgeon do not communicate effectively.

Cost of LASIK Surgeons

An experienced LASIK surgeon values his / her skills. They have performed more surgeries and will have a significant number of patients and will never resort to lower the prices and special sales to attract more patients.

Hidden cost for LASIK

Occasionally hidden cost in the form of retouch is also involved.

LASIK Centres generally spend a handsome amount on the advertisement on T V or newspaper or otherwise which also inflate the cost.

Is LASIK worth the cost?

LASIK can provide freedom from glasses and contact lenses with a nearer to zero chance of side effects or complications. While no elective procedure is completely risk free (can you say walking on the street or flying in the aircraft are risk free), the majority of LASIK patients are very satisfied. Do not try to find a cheaper center if you have found a well equipped ,updated and well maintained center providing consistently good results .Quality never comes cheap. Every consumables used at a good LASIK center costs a

little extra than a cheaper center. Even the maintenance of the system and the place is equally important. Small things like drying sponge to time taken for completing a surgery matters a lot. In view of this LASIK seems to be very economical. It is being done at much cheaper price in India than USA and other European countries.

Is it a right time to go for LASIK?

We have been wearing contacts or glasses since long and have been passively following the Laser Eye Surgery ever since. The idea of a permanent solution has always been appealing but as we watch new procedure come into practice every few years, we have always told ourselves that the longer we wait, the safer and better the procedure would be. **But who knows when is the procedure that causes zero side effects and gives you 20/10 vision going to come? Is it next year? Or the following year? Or 20 years later? Who knows ? Can this wait will ever end??** The longer you wait in your life, the less the total benefit will be. There is never an end of development or wait. Today it does seem like laser surgery may have reached a point where it is absolutely accurate and safe enough to really go for it. The procedure have gone down to about 1 to 2 minutes per eye, hardly any pain and with next day recovery. Additionally we are now able to map up our eyes much more exactly than ever before ,resulting in a much better chance of 20/20 or better vision after surgery.

.Today the trend have changed people do change their mobile every year. Price is no matter for them. When luxury like mobile becomes a part of the lifestyle, why can't LASIK , which is so very essential in one's life? So do not delay any more. Development is a never ending process. We have to choose among what is available. If we wait for tomorrow to eat ,we will have to suffer hunger today. Similarly if you do not decide now , you will never be able to enjoy LIFE WITHOUT CONTACTS AND GLASSES.

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